

Today's News - Tuesday, July 2, 2013

EDITOR'S NOTE: First, apologies for late posting - our Internet tubes got clogged this morning. Second, in honor of Independence Day on Thursday, we're declaring our independence a day early and taking the rest of the week off. We'll be back Monday, July 8 (with lotsa catching up to do!).

- Krier answers Weinstein's queries re: his Albert Speer book (and then some!).
- Jaffe reports on "a fascinating-if-fantastical" paper that proposes "a radical concept that would let people have their suburbs and cars and their sustainable cities, too."
- Lewis explains why it's often difficult for NIMBYs to accept change: "Opposition is sometimes motivated by perceptions, beliefs and fears that are unrealistic, unfounded or unfair."
- Litt hopes Cleveland gets a "new set of visual guidelines for the next wave of downtown projects near the lake...It's time to get relentless - about views."
- Rawsthorn gives a rave review to the Biospheric Project, led by young architects, that "has made beauty from blight" with a "garden of Eden amid the rubble" of an industrial city near Manchester, U.K.
- Groves ponders the future of Welton Becket's (very cool) 1958 Santa Monica Civic Auditorium: "Its future is uncertain, but preservation-minded residents have made it clear that they want the venue to have one."
- Chipperfield's new wing for the St. Louis Art Museum has garnered praise for its "inconspicuous profile," though some say it shows "too much restraint" and "doesn't dream": "the point wasn't to be flashy."
- Russell is cheered by small changes happening at Sandy-bashed beaches in New York's Rockaway: they're "small, symbolic signs of storm-resistant renewal" with details that "delight."
- Bernstein cheers the new Pines Pavilion on Fire Island: "it could be seen as the love child of Horace Gifford and OMA...And so far, the community is smitten" + A wonderful excerpt from Rawlins' "Fire Island Modernist: Horace Gifford and the Architecture of Seduction."
- Still in summer mode, a campaign is underway for an "ambitious project to float a public swimming pool in New York's East River."
- Moore marvels at Gray's E1027, a "graceful modernist villa": "Now its long-drawn-out restoration is provoking accusations of botching," but "it is not all doom and gloom."
- A stellar Canadian shortlist vies to design Emily Carr University of Art + Design campus that could "change Vancouver's urban landscape."
- A winner is selected in a competition for emerging firms to design a bar/restaurant building for Sydney's Barangaroo South (things look good for the runner-up, too!).
- Schumacher cheers Fujimoto being chosen for this year's \$100,000 Marcus Prize (it's good news for University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee architecture students, too!).
- CTBUH names the Best Tall Buildings for 2013 by region.
- One we couldn't resist: An urban explorer travels to Toronto's "least used subway station to find out if it really does exist and why it would be built in the first place" ("It's beautiful!").
- A few weekend diversions:
- Sapunar finds MoMA's Corbu show pretty super: "The sheer quantity and variety of materials could have been overwhelming, but it is displayed to its best advantage."
- Piano's new wing at the Gardner Museum in Boston gets its first landscape exhibition (and who isn't in it?!?).
- Heathcote hands out his list of summer reads - including the "nerdily entertaining" (of course, one must scroll almost to the bottom of the page to get to the Architecture list).
- 10 books about Antoni Gaudí: he "caught the eye of a patron...From that moment on, the limits of architecture would be tested and building design would never be the same again."
- A new book celebrates the builders of University of Glasgow and "the story of how the gothic fantasy was conceived, funded and realized."

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Leon Krier Answers Norman Weinstein's Questions (and then some!): Dear Mr. Weinstein: Thank you for mentioning my Speer reprint. I will respond gladly to your questions if you respond to my "pointed" questions. - ArchNewsNow

A Sustainable City With Cars and Low-Density Homes? It's Possible: ...in a fascinating-if-fantastical paper in the Journal of Urban Planning and Development, Mark Delucchi and Kenneth S. Kurani of the Institute of Transportation Studies propose a radical concept that would let people have their suburbs and cars and their sustainable cities, too. By Eric Jaffe - The Atlantic Cities

Accepting change from growth and redevelopment: Opposition is sometimes motivated by perceptions, beliefs and fears that are unrealistic, unfounded or unfair...Designers, developers and responsible public officials are not just building to solve today's problems or satisfy today's voters. Most new projects are built to accommodate future growth and generations yet to come. By Roger K. Lewis - Washington Post

It's time to preserve and enhance views of the Mall and the Cleveland lakefront: Views...from the city's downtown Mall...have been altered, in some cases for the worse and in some for the better...What's needed very quickly is a new set of visual guidelines [for] the next wave of downtown projects near the lake...It's time to get relentless — about views. By Steven Litt -- URS Architects [images] - Cleveland Plain Dealer

Garden of Eden Amid Rubble: The Biospheric Project...has made beauty from blight: At a time when eco-social design experiments intended to help people to live sustainably are increasingly popular among young designers...the Biospheric Project is unusually ambitious...has already had one positive outcome: a steep reduction in crime there and along the adjacent riverbank. By Alice Rawsthorn -- Vincent Walsh; Greg Keffe - New York Times

Santa Monica Civic Auditorium to close after 55 years as cultural mecca: Santa Monica is trying to develop plans for its famed but deteriorating Civic...Its future is uncertain, but preservation-minded residents have made it clear that they want the venue to have one. By Martha Groves -- Welton Becket (1958) - Los Angeles Times

St. Louis Art Museum's new wing is for art, not show, architect says: The museum and the architect have largely been lauded for the wing's inconspicuous profile...Some, however, have criticized the museum for showing too much restraint...doesn't dream...the point wasn't to be flashy... -- Cass Gilbert (1904); David Chipperfield [images, links] - St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Sandy-Bashed Rockaway Cheers Small Changes, \$20 Billion: ...warped trellises clustered around a chartreuse-painted concession stand wave a cheerful greeting...small, symbolic signs of storm-resistant renewal...the best thing to happen to New York City's beaches since Robert Moses erected festive Art Deco bathhouses in the 1930s...Their small details delight. By James S. Russell -- Sage and Coombe; Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects; Garrison Architects [images] - Bloomberg News

A Marriage of Serious Architecture and an Informal Setting: Designed by HWKN, Fire Island's New Pines Pavilion impresses...it could be seen as the love child of Horace Gifford and OMA...designed "not for architectural insiders, but for the community." And so far, the community is smitten. By Fred

"Fire Island Modernist: Horace Gifford and the Architecture of Seduction" by Christopher Rawlins: ...excerpt begins an evocative journey to another time, a time that's with us today still. [images] - Metropolis Magazine

+ Pool Launches 'Tile by Tile' Kickstarter Campaign: ...the ambitious project to float a public swimming pool in New York's East River... -- Family; PlayLab [images, links] - ArchDaily

Eileen Gray's E1027: In 1929 Eileen Gray built this graceful modernist villa on the Côte d'Azur as her love nest. So began a story of betrayal, neglect and, latterly, hope...Now its long-drawn-out restoration is provoking accusations of botching...It is not all doom and gloom. By Rowan Moore -- Renaud Barres; Burkhardt Rukschcio; Pierre-Antoine Gatier [slide show] - Observer (UK)

Shortlisted architects for Emily Carr University of Art + Design revealed: The new \$134-million campus...has the potential to change Vancouver's urban landscape...positions the university...as a key hub for the creative economy. -- Bing Thom Architects; Diamond Schmitt Architects/Chernoff Thompson Architects; Zeidler Partnership Architects/B+H Architects - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Barangaroo South judging panel bowled over by emerging architectural firm: A competition for emerging firms to create an exceptional restaurant and bar building...Collins and Turner have been selected...judges commended Scale Architecture for its "delightful proposal"...recommended that the firm...be offered an opportunity to work on public realm elements at Barangaroo. -- Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners [image] - Architecture & Design (Australia)

\$100,000 Marcus Prize given to Sou Fujimoto: Next to the Pritzker Prize...it is one of the most lucrative architectural prizes in the world today. It's also far less predictable, generally...The architect will travel here a handful of times to work with graduate students at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He also will Skype with the class as often as once a week. By Mary Louise Schumacher - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

CTBUH Names Best Tall Buildings for 2013: Regional winners from Canada, China, UK and UAE; Lifetime achievement awards: Henry Cobb/Pei Cobb Freed & Partners, Clyde Baker/AECOM -- Foster + Partners/Zeidler Partnership Architects; Office for Metropolitan Architecture/OMA/ECAD; Renzo Piano Building Workshop/Adamson Associates; Goettsch Partners - Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH)

Finding Bessarion: Urban Explorer Jeremy Woodcock travels to Bessarion Station, the least used Subway Station on the Toronto Transit Map, to find out if it really does exist and why it would be built in the first place..."It's beautiful!" [video] - John Gape Film

Manufactured Landscapes: "Le Corbusier: An Atlas of Modern Landscapes" at MoMA...The sheer quantity and variety of materials could have been overwhelming, but it is displayed to its best advantage in this comprehensive exhibition. By Dora Sapunar -- Jean-Louis Cohen; Barry Bergdoll [images] - Metropolis Magazine

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, Offers First Landscape Exhibition: "Composite Landscapes: Photomontage and Landscape Architecture"...work from a select group of influential contemporary artists and a dozen of the world's leading landscape architects...in the Museum's new wing designed by Renzo Piano...curated by Charles Waldheim and Andrea Hansen - Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Summer books guide: "The Invention of Craft" by Glenn Adamson; "Modernism London Style" by Niels Lehmann, edited by Christoph Rauhut; "Architecture on the Carpet: The Curious Tale of Construction Toys and the Genesis of Modern Buildings" by Robert and Brenda Vale. By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

10 books about Antoni Gaudí, artist and architect: In 1878, Gaudí caught the eye of a patron while presenting his showcase at the Paris World Fair. From that moment on, the limits of architecture would be tested and building design would never be the same again. - Christian Science Monitor

University of Glasgow builders celebrated in new book: "Building Knowledge - An Architectural History of the University of Glasgow" by Nick Haynes...the story of how the gothic fantasy was conceived, funded and realised. - Urban Realm (Scotland)

-- "A Topology of Everyday Constellations" by Georges Teyssot...his latest, brilliant book...
-- "Zaha Hadid - World Architecture" at the Danish Architecture Center, Copenhagen, Denmark
-- Obituary: Henning Larsen, 87: ...the essential link between the old masters from the Golden Age of Danish architecture...and the new, internationally oriented generation...
-- "Reiulf Ramstad Architects" by Boris Brorman Jensen (editor)

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